

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 2**  
**INCIDENT NO. 98-027**  
**Final Report**  
**DATE: April 8, 1998      TIME: 2:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train derailment involving hazardous materials.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Fingal Fire Department has reported that an 18 horse power pump motor was destroyed, and equipment was contaminated, during the agency's response to a fatal truck-train derailment that occurred March 27. A Canadian Pacific Railway train carrying hazardous materials was derailed after it was struck by a semi-tractor truck in Barnes County, north of Fingal, at the railroad's intersection with N.D. Highway 32. The accident claimed the life of the truck driver.

Canadian Pacific Railway environmental engineers estimate that 13,000 gallons of hydrofluorosilicic acid had spilled from one of the train's rail cars. Fourteen cars were derailed when the truck struck the train. The acid rail car was the 50<sup>th</sup> car pulled by the train.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: None at this time.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: None at this time.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Valley City District of the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reopened N.D. Highway 32 on April 3, one week after the road was closed to allow for cleanup of the spilled acid. Traffic had been rerouted through the city of Fingal.

The N.D. Department of Health provided on-scene technical assistance to Canadian Pacific Railway cleanup crews who completed their work April 2. Workers applied lime to areas that appeared to be contaminated with acid to achieve neutralization. Those areas included surface water, standing surface water and soil. Crews also used absorbent pads to mop up 25 to 50 gallons of diesel fuel that had spilled from the truck. Throughout the cleanup effort, cleanup crews continuously monitored the pH values of soil and water to ensure the acid had been neutralized. All neutralized material, with excessive amounts of lime, was taken to the Dakota Landfill in Gwinner. Environmental impacts associated with the spill were mitigated on site, according to Canadian Pacific environmental engineers.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None at this time.
9. OTHER: No additional information at this time.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director